

Federal grants will support development of the Rochester Regional Optics, Photonics, and Imaging Accelerator program

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that the University of Rochester has been awarded nearly \$1.9 Million in combined competitive grant funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, The U.S. Department of Energy, The National Institute of Standards and Technology, the U.S. Department of Labor and Small Business Administration. The grants will support advanced manufacturing activities, help grow industry clusters and enhance the Rochester region's capacity to create and sustain high-tech employment opportunities.

"This investment is welcome news for the Rochester region and for our ongoing effort to help transform our local economy," said Slaughter. "I have strongly supported the development of high-tech employment opportunities in Rochester and I am thrilled that these federal agencies have recognized the tremendous potential that exists here. How wonderful on a day when I have just visited Lumetrics – a leading firm in the photonics cluster, to be able to announce this important grant. Rochester has become a leading center for advanced optics and photonics and these grants will assist in expanding that capacity, which will result in what is desperately needed – new, high-paying jobs."

In July of this year Slaughter wrote a letter to Commerce Department Acting Assistant Secretary of Economic Development Matt Erskine, [voicing her strong support for U of R's grant application](#)

The \$1.9 million investment will support the development of the Rochester Regional Optics, Photonics, and Imaging Accelerator program. The program will leverage regional strengths in education, workforce training, technology development and incubation to accelerate growth of optics, photonics, and imaging companies. This project teams the University of Rochester with the Rochester Regional Photonics Cluster, and Rochester Institute of Technology to use enhanced networking, targeted international customer matchmaking, and market research tied to key regional assets, to produce collaborative research projects.

"This grant leverages the Rochester region's collective strength in optics, photonics and imaging to address critical challenges that threaten our global competitiveness and economic growth,"

said Joel Seligman, president of the University of Rochester. "The project will adopt a comprehensive and coordinated approach that fosters innovation through university-industry collaboration, strengthens our education and workforce capacity, and builds on our area's many assets. This will enable us to generate new ideas, continue to be at the forefront of emerging technologies, and accelerate the adoption of advanced manufacturing practices to ensure we remain an international center for optics and photonics. I want to especially thank Congresswoman Louise Slaughter for her tireless advocacy, which helped secure these funds."

"This grant is extraordinary for a number of reasons," said Tom Battley, Executive Director of the Rochester Regional Photonics Cluster (RRPC). "Jannick Rolland's work in freeform optics that it will support at the University of Rochester is first and foremost a great thing for Rochester and our optics community. And to the RRPC what will stand out is that this is the first time that the University and the RRPC have applied jointly for anything. It is a model success story for growing Rochester's strategic advantages in Optics, Photonics and Imaging. Thank you Congresswoman Slaughter for your continuing support."